

In the claims:

Page 1, line 2, amend as follows:

~~Specification:~~ Background of the Invention

Page 6, between lines 25 and 26 insert the following
heading:

Summary of the Invention

Delete the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 in its entirety
and replace with the following:

In keeping with these objects and with others which will
become apparent hereinafter, one feature of the present invention resides,
briefly stated, in a centrifugal pump, comprising a housing which is
disclosed in a fluid-and gas-tight fashion except for at least one inlet
opening and at least one outlet opening; a pump rotor located inside said
housing rotatably and being simultaneously a rotor of a drive motor, said
rotor having at least one permanently magnetized region; one stator
located outside said housing, above and below said rotor, so that said
stators in a gap between said stators and said permanently magnetized

region of said rotor, generate a magnetic flux, said rotor being arranged symmetrically to its central plane and having an upper and a lower covering, an element selected from the group consisting of said rotor, said housing and both being shaped such that axial spaces between said upper and lower coverings and an upper and lower housing wall decrease continuously radially inwards, in such a manner that in a radially inner region of said rotor, rotor side chambers each have one throttle gap which in operation affect a radially inwards-oriented backflows in said rotor side chambers such that upon an axial deflection of said rotor, different pressure distributions occur above and below said rotor, as a result of which forces acting on a predominant surface area of said coverings are generated which effect an axial stabilization of said rotor and are operative in a same way against tilting of said rotor in said housing.

Page 10, line 1, amend as follows:

~~Shown are:~~Brief Description of the Drawings

Page 11, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following heading:

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

In the claims:

Claims 1-8 cancelled.

9. (New) A centrifugal pump, comprising a housing which is disclosed in a fluid-and gas-tight fashion except for at least one inlet opening and at least one outlet opening; a pump rotor located inside said housing rotatably and being simultaneously a rotor of a drive motor, said rotor having at least one permanently magnetized region; one stator located outside said housing, above and below said rotor, so that said stators in a gap between said stators and said permanently magnetized region of said rotor, generate a magnetic flux, said rotor being arranged symmetrically to its central plane and having an upper and a lower covering, an element selected from the group consisting of said rotor, said housing and both being shaped such that axial spaces between said upper and lower coverings and an upper and lower housing wall decrease continuously radially inwards, in such a manner that in a radially inner region of said rotor, rotor side chambers each have one throttle gap which in operation affect a radially inwards-oriented backflows in said rotor side chambers such that upon an axial deflection of said rotor, different pressure distributions occur above and below said rotor, as a result of which forces acting on a predominant surface area of said coverings are

generated which effect an axial stabilization of said rotor and are operative in a same way against tilting of said rotor in said housing.

10. (New) A centrifugal pump as defined in claim 9, wherein said rotor of said drive motor has a plurality of magnetized regions distributed uniformly over its circumference.

11. (New) A centrifugal pump as defined in claim 9, wherein said rotor is arranged so that a radial centering of said rotor is effected passively by reluctance forces.

12. (New) A centrifugal pump as defined in claim 9, wherein said rotor is composed entirely of a material selected from the group consisting of a paramagnetic material, a ferromagnetic material, and both.

13. (New) A centrifugal pump as defined in claim 9, wherein parts of the centrifugal pump are configured so that at least their surfaces that are in fluid contact are provided with a coating adapted to properties of a fluid.

14. A centrifugal pump as defined in claim 9, w herein the centrifugal pump is configured as a blood pump that is implantable in a body.

15. (new) A centrifugal pump as defined in claim 9, wherein said centrifugal pump is configured as a pump for blood in cardiac substitution or assist devices.

Please provide the following new abstract of the disclosure:

In a centrifugal pump rotor side chambers each have one throttle gap which in operation affect a radially inwards-oriented backflows in the rotor side chambers such that upon an axial deflection of the rotor, different pressure distributions occur above and below the rotor, as a result of which forces acting on a predominant surface area of upper and lower-rotor coverings are generated which effect an axial stabilization of the rotor and are operative in a same way against tilting of the rotor in the housing.